

QA-160

Layton House
104 South Liberty Street
Centreville
Private

circa 1795

The Layton House is believed to date to circa 1795. It stands on the north half of Lot No. 17, purchased by Richard Tilghman Earle in 1794. The 1797 tax assessment notes that Earle's lot is "improved" and valued at \$1466. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax includes a description of the same lot, improved by a two story brick house 23 feet by 29 feet, a brick meat house, a garden house and an office 14 feet by 16 feet. The property remained in Richard Tilghman Earle's possession until his death in 1843, when he left to his daughter, Susanne Frisby Earle, "...my brick house in Centreville at present occupied by John Palmer, and the lot and half acre of ground thereto belonging, and the office and other buildings and improvements on the said lot..."

The house has been enlarged and renovated, but survives as an important example of the two story Federal town houses built in Centreville in the first two decades of its development.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Layton House, 104 South Liberty Street

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of South Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Rodney C. Layton

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

104 South Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: ASG Jr. 3

Folio #: 75

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-160

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Layton House is located on the west side of South Liberty Street just south of Water Street. It is a large, two story brick house that has undergone a number of alterations and additions.

The original house was similar to a number of other early 19th century houses on this section of Liberty Street. It was two-and-one-half stories high and three bays wide, with a massive pitched roof, paired chimneys on the south gable, and a side hall-double parlour plan. The house was altered considerably circa 1900, however, and a fourth bay was added to the north end of the house. The pitched roof was replaced with a lower pitch hip roof, and the interior plan was altered. In the early 20th century a frame wing was added to the north end of the rear facade, and in 1940 the Laytons added a one-story doctor's office to the south gable.

The original house was 23 feet wide and 28 feet deep. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond on a three-course bond foundation with no watertable or belt course. The door was located in the north bay, with two six-over-six windows to the left of

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

the door, three six-over-six windows on the second floor, and two six-over-six pitched roof dormers on the third floor. Small three-light cellar windows are located directly below the first floor windows.

When the house was enlarged, it was extended 10 feet to the north. The original door was converted to a window and a new entrance was placed in the new north bay. When the pitched roof was replaced with a standing seam tin hip roof, the original cornice was also removed. The eaves of the hip roof are boxed in to form a deep soffit, with simple brackets applied against a wide fascia or backboard below the soffit.

The original north gable of the house is therefore completely covered by the addition. The new north gable is laid in seven- to eight-course bond. The fenestration is identical on both floors, and consists of a six-over-six window in the east bay, a smaller six-over-six window in the center bay, and a large one-over-one window in the west bay. The bracketed cornice is carried across the gable.

The south gable remains intact, but most of the first floor is covered by the 1940 addition. The brickwork is laid in three-course bond, and the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

paired chimneys rise as straight shafts without weathering or corbeling, projecting about 9 inches from the wall surface. Tall, narrow four-over-four windows are located to the left and right of the chimneys on each floor, but there are no openings between the chimneys. The cornice is also carried across this gable, but is somewhat awkward due to the projecting chimneys.

The north end of the rear facade is covered by the rear addition, and the exposed fenestration has been altered somewhat. At present, there is an exterior door in the south bay on the first floor with a large one-over-one window to the left of the door. On the second floor, there are large one-over-one windows directly above these two openings and a six-light window in what was the north bay of the original house. This appears to have been altered somewhat, and may have been a down-set window that lighted the original stair. The cornice is similar to the front facade, but does not have brackets. There is a large 20th century shed roof dormer in the center on the third floor. The rear addition does not cover the rear wall of the added north bay, and there is a

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

single one-over-one window on each floor.

The interior has been extensively altered. The original plan was undoubtedly a typical Federal side hall, double parlour plan. The stair hall followed the north gable wall, with two parlours to the south, each heated by a fireplace centered on the south wall. When the house was enlarged to the north, the old stair hall was eliminated, and several walls removed, forming a larger, four-room plan. The stair hall was relocated in the northeast quadrant of the house, with a door leading into an enlarged front parlour to the south. The rear parlour has remained intact, while the original exterior gable wall on the north side of the old stair hall was removed, allowing for a large dining room in the northwest quadrant. The original exterior door at the west end of the stair hall now provides access to the rear kitchen wing.

Little if any original trim remains. The front parlour fireplace remains open but the mantels are gone from both parlours. Some early window trim has survived, however, consisting of simple Greek Revival architraves and hoods and banded fascia

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

boards below the sills. It is uncertain if this is original, as the overall form and plan of the house is more typical of the first quarter of the 19th century.

The stair and all of the second floor trim is typical of the late Victorian period. The stair in the northeast room has an open-string carriage with a heavy square newel decorated with inset panels and a turned top. The balusters are turned, and the lower edge of the carriage piece is molded. The stair ends are plain except for a flat band of trim that outlines the treads and risers.

The second floor plan has also been altered, with the stair rising to a center hall, with the original chambers to the south still intact, and two additional chambers on the north side of the hall. The west end of the hall has been partitioned to form a bathroom. The third floor is unfinished, and dates entirely to the circa 1900 renovation.

There is a full cellar below the original portion of the house. It is divided longitudinally into two rooms by a brick partition wall. The chimney base in the front room has a recessed relieving arch. The base in the rear has been covered up, but evidently

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

served as a kitchen fireplace.

The pit-sawn joists in the front room are exposed, but were at one time concealed by a plaster ceiling secured with machine nails. The ceiling in the rear room is plastered with machine lathing secured with wire nails. The original bulkhead entrance is located in the center of the rear wall, and still provides access via an interior stair in the rear kitchen addition.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Layton House is one of a group of houses all constructed in Centreville in the early 19th century. They share many similar characteristics, but most prominent are the two-and-one-half story height, three bay facade, and the side hall, double parlour plan. The Layton House has been extensively altered over the years, but continues to display the basic original form, if in a somewhat diluted state.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-160

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Queen Anne's County Historical Society	1/3/79
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Centreville	Maryland 21617

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CENTREVILLE

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QA-160
Layton Residence

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





Q4-160 Hayton House
104 South Liberty St
Centerville, Md.
Oct 1979 (MHT)



QA-160



QA - 160 Early photo of
104 South Liberty St.

Centerville

(Hayton Residence)

negative in possession
of Mrs Hayton.



GA 160

Layton House
104 South Liberty St.